(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

USD : US$
PMT : Per metric Tonne
FOB : Free on Board

Modernisation of IISCO

1605. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry in response to a Global Tender has finalised the modernisation package of IISCO and sent it to Finance Ministry for necessary approval;

(b) if so, the response from the Finance Ministry in this regard;

(c) how long it will take to initiate modernisation of the Plant; and

(d) the present status of IISCO modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June, 1994. In August, 1996, SAIL has invited offers for participation in the revival/ modernisation of IISCO through a joint venture arrangement with SAIL retaining majority share-holding 51% in the joint venture company. SAIL has received offers from two parties viz. M/s. Tyazhpromexport (TPE) of Russia and M/s. Mitsui of Japan. M/s. Mitsui have since indicated their unwillingness for equity participation which is an essential requirement for selection of Joint Venture Partner. Consequently at present there is only one offer available for revival of IISCO. M/s. TPE have since informed SAIL that they require extension of three months time for submission on their Revival Plan. Consequently, SAIL have sought extension of time for a further period of 4 months from the BIFR.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the order of the BIFR in this regard.

Suggestions of Nitish Sengupta Committee

1606. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nitish Sengupta Committee made any suggestion to increase steel exports;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant accepted any of these recommendations to increase steel exports; and

(d) if so, details of such steps taken by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d): Report of the Expert Group headed by Shri Nitish Sengupta on export of Iron and Steel has been received recently. Salient findings of the expert group are given in the annexure. The Government have yet to take final view on the recommenations of the Expert Group. (given below as a statment).

Statement

Salient Findings of The Expert Group on Export of Iron and Steel

India's steel efforts started in a significant way in 1992-93 Exports further peaked in 1993-94. In the last few years, India has also emerged as an exporter of pig iron and DRI.

After the Liberalisation in economic policy, in the areas of investment, distribution, pricing and trade, the steel sector has not only shown desired results through increased production, capacity utilisation, new investment but also in significant increase in export.

In spite of a general forecast of a not so favourable enlargement of the global